

MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

Held in Washington, D.C., May 18, 1944

The third meeting of the Commission of Fine Arts during the fiscal year 1944 was held in its office in the Interior Department Building on Thursday, May 18, 1944.

The following members were present:

Mr. Clarke, Chairman,
Mr. Lamb,
Dr. Cret,
Mr. Holabird,
Mr. Poor,
Mr. Finley,

also H. P. Caemmerer, Secretary

and Administrative Officer.

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETING: The Minutes of the meeting held February 18, 1944, were approved.

2. FOURTEENTH REPORT OF THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS: The secretary presented the manuscript copy of the Fourteenth Report of the Commission of Fine Arts, for the period from January 1, 1940, to June 30, 1944.

The Chairman stated that he had edited the Report and reviewed it a second time for minor changes and that it is now ready to be sent to the President, with the suggestion that he transmit it to Congress for authorization to have it printed with illustrations. It should make an interesting Report similar to the Thirteenth. The Commission were pleased to hear this.

An appropriate letter was sent by the Chairman to the President to accompany the Report (Exhibit A).

3. CHINESE RESTAURANT: Under date of May 15, 1944, a set of plans was received from the Inspector of Buildings (Application No.1034) for a Chinese Restaurant to be located diagonally opposite the Washington City Post Office,

at 14 F Street, N.W., Lots 88-89, Square 628.

The Commission considered the design. The Commission felt unanimously, that a building of this character would be incongruous in the locality, and that it would be conspicuously located in proximity to the Washington City Post Office. Also, the Commission felt it would establish a bad precedent to allow a building in this style of architecture within or adjacent to the area prescribed by the Shipstead-Luce Act, since in the Post War Period attempts would be made to erect buildings resembling the architecture of many foreign countries. The Chairman emphasized the fact that since 1930, when the Shipstead-Luce Act was adopted by Congress, the Commission have carefully guarded the area, including areas adjacent to those prescribed in the Act.

The Commission suggested that if this is to be a Chinese building, the Chinese style of architecture should be limited to the interior, with the exterior in colonial brick or other general American style. The Commission called attention to the Folger Shakespeare Library, which is Elizabethan in the interior and classic on the exterior.

The Commission disapproved the design and recommended that a revised design in accordance with their suggestions be submitted. A report was sent to the Commissioners of the District of Columbia accordingly (Exhibit B).

4. BRONZE STAR, WAR DEPARTMENT: The Chairman reported that under date of April 4, 1944, the following letter was received from Major General M. G. White, Assistant Chief of Staff, War Department:

I am submitting herewith a Bronze Star Medal which has received the approval of the Navy and War Departments. Executive Order 9149 approved February 4, 1944, established this medal.

Will you please furnish me the advice of the Commission with regard to the design of the Bronze Star Medal?

The Chairman stated that about the time he received the letter he was asked to have luncheon with Mr. Clyde C. Trees, President of the Medallic

Art Company, who told him that the War Department had issued an order to have 1,500,000 of these stars cast, of which his company is to make 500,000. It was evident nothing could be done in the matter of changing the design, and Mr. Clarke said he reported to General White that the Commission of Fine Arts imposes no objection to the use of the Bronze Star Medal by the War and Navy Departments (Exhibit C).

The Commission inspected the Bronze Star Medal, which General White presented to the Commission for the collection of medals and insignia, and ratified the action of the Chairman in this matter.

5. MERCHANT MARINE MEDAL: The secretary presented, as a gift from Rear Admiral Emory S. Land, Chairman of the U. S. Maritime Commission, a Merchant Marine Medal, designed by Mr. Manship and approved by the Commission. The Commission inspected the medal and were pleased with it, after which it was placed in the collection of Medals and Insignia.

6. DESIGN FOR PUBLIC SCHOOL BUILDINGS:

(a) Kimball Elementary School. Mr. Nathan C. Wyeth, Municipal Architect, submitted a design for an addition to the Kimball Elementary School, at Minnesota Avenue and Ely Place, S.E.

The Commission inspected the design and approved it.

(b) Adelaide Davis School: Mr. Wyeth submitted a design for the Adelaide Davis School, a new school building, to be located at 44th and H Streets, S.E. Only one wing is to be built at present.

The architect members of the Commission inspected the design. Dr. Cret made several suggestions pertaining to the design, relating particularly to the connecting wing, which he said could be made more interesting. He also gave attention to several other matters in detail.

The Commission approved the design with the understanding that the

suggestions made by Dr. Cret will be embodied in the final design.

A report was sent to Mr. Wyeth accordingly (Exhibit D)

7. CENTRAL KITCHEN, GALLINGER HOSPITAL: Mr. Wyeth submitted a design for a Central Kitchen at Gallinger Hospital, to be located in proper relation to existing hospital buildings. The Commission inspected the design and approved it (Exhibit D).

8. STATE DEPARTMENT BUILDING: Mr. George Howe, Supervising Architect, of the Public Buildings Administration, accompanied by Gilbert Stanley Underwood, Consulting Architect, submitted sketches for a new State Department Building, to be located on Square 167 on the west side of Lafayette Park.

Mr. Howe stated that the project presents peculiar difficulties since the President desires that provision be made in the design to preserve the Blair-Lee Mansions, facing Pennsylvania Avenue, and the old Decatur House at the Corner of H Street and Jackson Place.

The sketches presented showed an ordinary office building, 110 feet high, with 20 foot set-back, adjacent to the mansion houses above-mentioned. The new building is to furnish 330,000 square feet of office space to house 3,000 persons, who are employes of the Department of State and Budget Bureau.

Mr. Wm. T. Partridge, Consulting Architect of the National Capital Park and Planning Commission, presented a model to illustrate the scheme, as well as a scheme of proposed buildings around Lafayette Park.

The Commission inspected the design and were not satisfied with it. Chairman Clarke called attention to the fact that the old mansions are not complete without their gardens,---"These houses without their gardens are not houses at all. There can be no compromise; there should be all office building or all small buildings, at least on the east half of the Square."

Mr. Underwood said it has been suggested that the Decatur House be

used as a residence for the Secretary of State. The Blair-Lee Mansions are used as guests houses for official visitors to the United States. The Commission raised the question whether or not at some time the use of these Mansions for such purposes might be abandoned, in which event a building could be designed for the Department of State to cover the entire square, also if these mansions would be relocated on some other site.

After consideration, the Commission decided that the west half of the Square might be used for an office building and that the east half should be a considerably lower building, appropriately designed if the Blair-Lee Mansions and the Decatur House are to be included in the project. The sketches submitted by Mr. Howe were disapproved. A report was sent to Mr. Howe suggesting that further study be given to the project (Exhibit E).

9. REVISED DESIGN FOR THE STATE, WAR AND NAVY BUILDING. Mr. Howe submitted a revised design for the State, War and Navy Building, so as to be as to its exterior a classic building with pediment, similar to the Treasury Department building on the east side of the White House. Mr. Howe said it was made by Waddy Wood about ten or twelve years ago.

Mr. Finley said he remembered the design very well, since it was made at the time Mr. Andrew Mellon while Secretary of the Treasury had charge of the construction of the new public buildings in the Triangle south of Pennsylvania Avenue and this was one of the projects in the Public Buildings Program.

Mr. Underwood said it might be desirable to have a State, War and Navy Building that would balance and be similar to the Treasury Building, but as a project it is uneconomical since it would cost \$8,000,000 to do the job and after completion there would be 50,000 square feet less office space, since it would be necessary to lower the existing building one story.

The interior of the building is not to be changed and it was generally

admitted that it is an interesting old office building, representing an era about 75 years ago when the French influence on American architecture prevailed.

Mr. Howe was asked what it would cost to remove the old building and construct a new one and he replied that the cost would be \$15,000,000.

The Commission considered the matter and felt it is a project that could be held in abeyance until after the War.

10. ARMILLARY SPHERE, MERIDIAN HILL PARK: The secretary reported that Mr. Horace W. Peaslee, architect, had recently urged that the Commission take up matters for the improvement of Meridian Hill Park, which had been recommended while he was architect of the park. In particular Mr. Peaslee recommended that consideration be given to the question of gold-leafing the Armillary Sphere, in the Lower Garden, designed by C. Paul Jennewein, sculptor.

The secretary stated that at the suggestion of the Chairman he had taken up the matter with Mr. Jennewein, who replied that he was in favor of gold-leafing the sphere, stating----

April 7, 1944.

"Regarding the Armillary Sphere, I am very much in favor of having it gold leafed, and I would very much like to see it done. It was spoken of originally, but we also knew that it would have to be repeated every ten to fifteen years."

Further inquiry was made as to the probable cost of the work, and

Mr. Jennewein replied as follows:

April 12, 1944.

"Regarding the cost of using gold leaf on the Armillary Sphere, I would say that the cost would not be less than three hundred dollars (\$300.00), and any good painter would do the work.

"I would like to suggest, however, that instead of gold-leafing the entire bronze, I would prefer to see just the ornaments, such as the stars, lines, and figures in gold leaf. The late Charles Borie had a small replica of the sphere, and had it done this way. The result was most effective. In this way you could save a great amount of gold, and enhance the effect."

The Commission interposed no objection to gold-leafing the Armillary Sphere, as suggested by Mr. Jennewein. The Office of National Capital Parks was informed accordingly (Exhibit F).

11. PLUG CASTING, MERIDIAN HILL PARK: Under date of May 9, 1944, the following letter was received from Mr. R. C. Parsons, Secretary, National Capital Casting Club:

"During the past several weeks the writer and several other enthusiasts have practiced plug casting on the upper esplanade of Meridian Park.

"It would be greatly appreciated if you would grant permission to kalsomine a small target on the lawn as shown on the attached sketch. If this proved objectionable it could be removed at any time.

"Mr. Christiansen is aware of our desire for this target and has the facilities for marking same on the lawn."

Mr. Parsons was present and explained the game to the Commission. He said it is very popular and no injury would result to the park.

The Commission interposed no objection to the adoption of this recreational feature in the Park and considered it rather an administrative matter for the Office of National Capital Parks. Mr. Irving C. Root, Superintendent, was informed accordingly (Exhibit G).

12. PLUG CASTING, LINCOLN MEMORIAL REFLECTING BASIN: Under date of May 8, 1944, the following letter was received:

Major Gilmore D. Clarke, Chairman,
The Commission of Fine Arts,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Major Clarke:

The National Capital Casting Club wishes to obtain permission to furnish illumination at their own expense at the easterly (Seventeenth Street) end of the Lincoln Memorial Reflection Pool to permit evening practice casting.

The National Capital Parks office felt that the Fine Arts Commission would object to the possible unsightliness of such illumination. We have been advised that only 5-6 lights are necessary and these would throw a narrow downward beam over eighty feet of water with no upward glare. Furthermore, the lights would be placed on the north~~x~~ side near the easterly overpass and would be hardly noticeable from Seventeenth Street and obviously would be practically out of eyesight from the more important westerly end at the base of the memorial. If, after this season's experiment, the lights ~~were~~ found to be objectional the club would remove them without expense to the government.

Practicing would occur 2-3 evenings a week and never later than

10:00 p.m. Mr. M. F. Christiansen, Superintendent of Recreation of the District, has signified his approval of casting as a worthy segment of the recreation program and would, I believe, join us in a plea for illumination. There is an extremely large number of duration workers in Washington who are members of fishing and casting clubs in their home towns. It is our sincere conviction that evening casting, under the guidance of Mr. Christiansen's Recreation Department and the local club, would result in a most surprising turn out. As a matter of fact, tournament casting (both bait and fly) is one of the fastest growing sports nationwide, with many municipalities and corporations making large investments to provide attractive facilities in parks and private ponds.

Disabled soldiers and sailors have evinced a genuine interest in casting. It is the intention of the Casting Club to hold practice sessions for these men and to provide all necessary rods, reels, etc., as well as expert coaching from several past champion casters now members of the club. Several exhibitions were put on last year for officers and sailors at the Naval Hospital. The fascination of precision casting engrossed many of the boys and this year we hope that many veterans can break the ennui of convalescence by actually casting at the Pool.

The National Capital Casting Club is of long standing and is composed of responsible Washington citizens. It is affiliated with the Izaak Walton League and the AAU. Members of the club would be in charge at all practice sessions and would cooperate with the Park Police in the maintenance of orderly entertainment.

Your approval of this program and cooperation in assisting the club would be most appreciated. The writer would be glad to go to the pool with any persons you designate to explain further details. If, however, such inspection is not necessary, we believe a letter of approval from the Fine Arts Commission to the National Capital Parks office would permit immediate action to prepare for this season's activities.

Very truly yours,
R.C.Parsons, Secretary,
National Capital Casting Club
Room 2707 South Agriculture Bldg."

Mr. Parsons was present to explain the game and stated that the War Department does not object to this recreational activity near their building.

The Commission considered the matter and felt that to install from 5 to 6 light posts would create an ugly glare on the Reflecting Basin, such as would cause criticism by the Public. The Commission interposed no objection to playing this game there before dark. Mr. Root was informed accordingly (Exh.G)

13. PLAQUE FOR THE RECORDER OF DEEDS BUILDING: Under date of May 3, 1944, the following letter was received from Mr. Edward B. Rowan of the Section of Fine Arts, Public Buildings Administration:

"Attached is a progress photograph of a dedicatory plaque being prepared by Miss Selma Burke for the Recorder of Deeds Building, Washington, D.C. The comment and advice of the Commission will be greatly appreciated.

"Miss Burke is under contract with the District Government to undertake this work, having been selected by a jury which reviewed the photographs of all the colored sculptors available in this country. Since the building is in charge of colored officials, it was regarded fitting to have this plaque created by a colored sculptor.

"The plaque corresponds in size to a bulletin board now in the lobby and is to be placed in a corresponding position in the west end of the main lobby. The subject matter was proposed by the Recorder of Deeds."

The Commission felt that the head in relief of President Roosevelt is not particularly interesting and raised the question whether the President favored having this plaque in the Building. Criticism was withheld pending the receipt of a photograph of the completed model. Mr. Rowan was informed accordingly (Exhibit H).

14. SAMUEL F. B. MORSE PLAQUE: The Chairman reported that several weeks ago Congress adopted a Concurrent Resolution (No.72) for commemorating the centennial of the sending of the first message by telegraph, "What Hath God Wrought", by Samuel F. B. Morse from the United States Capitol Building to Baltimore, where it was received by Mr. Vaille in the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad Station, on May 24, 1844. The Resolution provided also for a Plaque, and while the Capitol is exempt from the jurisdiction of the Commission in Fine Arts matters, David Lynn, Architect of the Capitol, nevertheless requested the advice of the Commission in this matter and urged that the work be expedited.

Accordingly, Mr. Clarke said he recommended that the services of

Lee Lawrie be secured to model a medallion head of Morse; Mr. Partridge made a preliminary sketch of the molding for the plaque, which measures approximately 3' x 4', and the Medallic Art Company arranged for the design of the lettering. The legend was drafted by Members of Congress who are members of the Morse Centennial Commission. Over the head of Morse, which portrays him as he appeared in 1844, is the first message sent by telegraph, "What Hath God Wrought".

At the request of Mr. Lynn the Commission visited the Capitol in the afternoon and inspected the Plaque. The Commission were pleased with it and approved it. During the inspection several members of Congress were present who were telegraphers at one time (8 in all). They demonstrated on the original Morse instrument, which owned by Cornell University.

A letter of approval was sent to Mr. Lynn (Exhibit I; see also I-1).

15. WAR ART MUSEUM: The Chairman presented a letter from Mr. David Lynn, Architect of the Capitol, expressing his approval of the plan to use the old District of Columbia Court House for a War Art Museum after it shall be vacated by the Court (Exhibit J).

Mr. Finley said there is great need for a War Art Museum and he might be helpful in having legislation introduced in Congress to secure the authorization for the use of the building for this purpose.

16. WHITE HOUSE CHINA: The Chairman reported the receipt of the following letter from the White House:

April 28, 1944.

My dear Mr. Clarke:

I am taking the liberty of transmitting herewith an original letter from Mr. Hall, Vice President and Trust Officer of the National Savings and Trust Company, on the matter of certain china which is bequeathed under the Will of Annabel Lee Fry to the United States Government.

Mrs. Roosevelt is of the opinion that the authenticity of this china should be gone into and wonders if your Commission, as busy as she knows you are, can be imposed upon to do this. If the china is found to be authentic, the Commission should make

all the arrangements and accept the same for and on behalf of the United States Government.

Copy of my letter to Mr. Hall informing him of this matter is enclosed for your information.

Kindest personal regards,

Very sincerely yours,

H. G. Crim,

Chief Usher.

The letter from Mr. Hall reads as follows:

Washington, D.C.

April 7, 1944.

Mr. Maurice C. Latta, Executive Clerk,
White House,
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir:

Please be advised that in and by Item IV of the last Will and Testament of Annabel Lee Fry, who died on February 29, 1944, there is bequeathed unto the United States Government the following:

"I give and bequeath unto the United States Government, to be placed with the collection of china on view in the White House, Washington, D. C., the following: A dinner plate with yellow and black border (Dolly Madison set); a dinner plate with red border (President Lincoln set); and a compote, white with narrow gold border, used by President Jackson at his home, "The Hermitage", near Nashville, Tennessee."

David Bornet and this Company were named Executors in the Will and accordingly have filed a petition with the District Court of the United States for the District of Columbia, Holding a Probate Court, for the admission and record of said Will and Codicils thereto, and for the issuance to them of Letters Testamentary upon the Estate.

Very truly yours,

J. Fontaine Hall,

Vice President and Trust Officer."

The Chairman stated that he had referred the matter to Mr. Finley for attention and report.

Mr. Finley filed a preliminary report, stating that he had attended to preliminaries and that arrangements are being made to have the china brought to Washington for inspection. (Exhibit K)

17. FREER GALLERY OF ART: The Commission visited the Freer Gallery of Art, and inspected several objects of art presented by Director A. G. Wenley, which were approved (Exhibit L).

18. SCULPTURE, WAR DEPARTMENT BUILDING: In accordance with arrangements made by Mr. Edward B. Rowan of the Section of Fine Arts, the Commission inspected the two full-sized models of soldier figures by Henry Kreis, sculptor, to flank the large mural painting in the lobby of the War Department building at 21st Street and Virginia Avenue. Both Mr. Rowan and Mr. Kreis were present during the inspection.

The models were covered with bronze colored patine and stood at approximately their permanent locations. Pedestals for them are to be provided when the statues will be permanently placed after the War.

The Commission approved the models and Mr. Rowan was informed accordingly (Exhibit M).

19. REPORT OF REORGANIZATION OF THE NATIONAL CAPITAL PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION: The secretary stated that he had sent to each member of the Commission a copy of a Report recently issued by the Bureau of the Budget, on the reorganization of the National Capital Park and Planning Commission, to be known hereafter, if legislation is adopted by Congress accordingly, as the National Capital Planning Commission.

The Chairman stated that he had read the Report, which he said is very good. It gives appropriate credit to the Commission of Fine Arts.

The Chairman suggested that the Commission of Fine Arts make no recommendation as to the Report until after legislation has been introduced in Congress on the subject, and this was agreed to by the Commission.

20. WORLD WAR II MONUMENT FOR GUADALCANAL: The Chairman stated that recently he had been informed by Herbert Adams of a model by William Marks Simpson, sculptor, for a memorial proposed for erection at Guadalcanal in the South Pacific, and that he had informed Mr. Adams that the Commission of Fine Arts would await a submission by the Navy Department.

The secretary reported that he had also heard from Mr. Simpson concerning the matter, and in reply to an inquiry asking for some specific information concerning this memorial project, Mr. Simpson wrote as follows:

Hq. Co. Service Command
A P O 709, c/o PM San Francisco,
April 28, 1944.

Dear Mr. Caemmerer:

Thank you for your letter concerning my proposed monument.

All of the photographs and the papers regarding its construction, location, materials, time for modelling, and erection are with the Navy Dept. as the enclosed copy of the Admiral's note implies.

The model for the monument is still here at Headquarters. It is a design for a thirty foot cement figure. No money appropriation has been asked as we already have all the labor and materials on hand.

I would appreciate any further information you may procure. If possible, the Navy's intentions in the matter.

Best wishes to you,

Sincerely,

Wm. Marks Simpson

The note from the Admiral, above referred to, was addressed to the Secretary of the Navy and simply states:

"Forwarded for such action as The Navy Department may care to take when the time becomes appropriate."

The Commission considered the matter and decided to take no action with regard thereto until the submission of the project by the Navy Department. The Commission felt that in due time a special Memorial Commission or Board would be necessary to have duties similar to those of the American Battle Monuments Commission of World War I. The Act creating that Commission (approved March 4, 1923) provided "That before any design or material for memorials is accepted by the commission, the same shall be approved by the National Commission of Fine Arts." It was recalled that in accordance with

the Act this Commission had approved designs for some 30 to 40 Memorials, with Dr. Cret as Consultant of the American Battle Monuments Commission.

A letter was sent to Mr. Simpson (Exhibit N)

21. MEMORIAL FOR RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA: The Chairman presented a letter (Exhibit O) received from the Honorable Josephus Daniels, of Raleigh, North Carolina, asking for the assistance of the Commission of Fine Arts in the matter of securing a memorial which the State of North Carolina proposes to erect to the three Presidents of the United States from North Carolina, namely, Andrew Jackson, James K. Polk, and Andrew Johnson. The memorial is to be placed on the Capitol Grounds at Raleigh.

The Chairman asked for volunteers to make the trip, but the other members of the Commission decided to leave the matter in the care of the Chairman.

22. NEXT MEETING OF THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS: The Chairman stated that it would be necessary for the Commission to meet in Washington the latter part of June to inspect plans for bridges which Capt. Whitehurst, Director of Highways of the District of Columbia, will submit to take the place of the old Highway Bridge in South Washington. Also he said there may be some other submissions before adjournment for the summer.

The Commission adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

COPY

May 18, 1944.

Dear Mr. President:

The Commission of Fine Arts have the honor to present to you their Fourteenth Report, for the period from January 1, 1940, to June 30, 1944.

The Report sets forth the activities of the Commission during the past four years and marks another milestone of progress in the fields of architecture, landscape architecture, sculpture and painting, particularly insofar as concerns the District of Columbia.

The War imposed peculiar duties upon the Commission, more especially with regard to the design of medals.

As in previous years, the Commission of Fine Arts have always enjoyed your continued and enthusiastic support and for this we desire to express our appreciation.

The Commission respectfully ask that you submit the Report to the Congress for printing, with illustrations. The Twelfth Report was printed as a Senate Document, and the Thirteenth as a House Document. There is a continued demand for the printed Reports of the Commission and this, we anticipate, will obtain for this Fourteenth Report. You will note that we are submitting the Report a few weeks in advance of the expiration of this fiscal year, in order that the printing may be authorized by the Congress before adjournment for the summer.

Very sincerely yours,

GILMORE D. CLARKE,

Chairman

The President,

The White House.

EXHIBIT A

COPY

May 16, 1944

Dear Mr. President:

The Commission of Fine Arts have the honor to present to you their Fourteenth Report, for the period from January 1, 1940, to June 30, 1944.

The Report sets forth the activities of the Commission during the past four years and makes a summary of progress in the fields of architecture, landscape engineering, sculpture and painting, particularly insofar as concerns the District of Columbia.

The War imposed peculiar duties upon the Commission, more especially with regard to the design of medals.

As in previous years, the Commission of Fine Arts have always enjoyed your continued and enthusiastic support and for this we desire to express our appreciation.

The Commission respectfully ask that you submit the Report to the Congress for printing, with illustrations. The Twelfth Report was printed as a Senate Document, and the Thirteenth as a House Document. There is a continued demand for the printed reports of the Commission and this, we anticipate, will obtain for this Fourteenth Report. You will note that we are submitting the Report a few weeks in advance of the expiration of this fiscal year, in order that the printing may be authorized by the Congress before adjournment for the summer.

Very sincerely yours,

CLYDE T. BROWN

Chairman

The President,

The White House.

EXHIBIT A

COPY

May 19, 1944.

Dear Sirs:

Under date of May 15, 1944, the Commission of Fine Arts received a set of plans from the Inspector of Buildings (Application No. 1034) for a Chinese Restaurant to be located at 14 F Street, N.W., Lot 88-89, Square 628, coming within the area prescribed by the Shipstead-Luce Act.

The Commission considered the plans at a meeting held on May 18, 1944, and disapproved them. A building of this character would be incongruous in the locality, and it would be conspicuously located in proximity to the Washington City Post Office.

The Commission feel that it would establish a bad precedent to allow a building in this style of architecture within or adjacent to the area prescribed by the Shipstead-Luce Act, for in the Post War period attempts would be made to erect buildings resembling the architecture of many foreign countries.

If this is to be a Chinese building, the Commission advise that the Chinese style of architecture be limited to the interior, with the exterior colonial brick or other general American style. The Commission call attention to the Folger Shakespeare Library, which is Elizabethan in the interior and classic on the exterior.

The Commission will give prompt attention to a revised design whenever it is submitted.

For the Commission of Fine Arts;

Very respectfully yours,

The Board of Commissioners
of the District of Columbia,
Washington, D.C.

GILMORE D. CLARKE,
Chairman

EXHIBIT B

May 19, 1944.

Dear Sir:

Under date of May 10, 1944, the Commission of Fine Arts received a set of plans from the Inspector of Buildings (Application No. 1034) for a Chinese Restaurant to be located at 147 Street, N.W., Lot 22-23, Square 223, coming within the area prescribed by the Shipyard-Lots Act. The Commission considered the plans at a meeting held on May 10, 1944, and disapproved them. A building of this character would be incongruous in the locality, and it would be conspicuously located in proximity to the Washington City Post Office.

The Commission feels that it would establish a bad precedent to allow a building in this style of architecture within or adjacent to the area prescribed by the Shipyard-Lots Act, for in the past few years attempts would be made to erect buildings resembling the architecture of many foreign countries.

If this is to be a business building, the Commission advises that the Chinese style of architecture be limited to the interior, with the exterior colonial brick or other general American style. The Commission calls attention to the Folger Shakespeare Library, which is Elizabethan in the interior and classic on the exterior.

The Commission will give prompt attention to a revised design whenever it is submitted.

Very respectfully yours,

CLYDE T. GILBERT,

Chairman

The Board of Commissioners
of the District of Columbia,
Washington, D.C.

COPY

April 14, 1944.

Major General M. G. White,
Assistant Chief of Staff,
War Department General Staff,
Personnel Division G-1,
Washington, D.C.

Dear General White:

This will acknowledge your communication of April 4th, enclosing a Bronze Star Medal which has received the approval of the War and Navy Departments, and which was established under the authority of Executive Order 9149 approved February 4, 1944.

I note that this medal is similar in design to the Silver Star Medal authorized following the last War. The Commission of Fine Arts imposes no objection to the use of the Bronze Star Medal by the War and Navy Departments.

May we retain the sample medal which you sent us for our collection, which we keep in a show case in the Meeting Room of the Commission?

Sincerely yours,

GILMORE D. CLARKE,

Chairman

EXHIBIT C

April 14, 1944

Major General M. G. White,
Assistant Chief of Staff,
War Department General Staff,
Personnel Division G-1,
Washington, D.C.

Dear General White:

This will acknowledge your communication of April 14, 1944, enclosing a Bronze Star Medal which has received the approval of the War and Navy Departments, and which was established under the authority of Executive Order 9404 approved December 9, 1944. I note that this medal is similar in design to the Silver Star Medal authorized following the last war. The Commission of Fine Arts has no objection to the use of the Bronze Star Medal by the War and Navy Departments.

May we retain the sample medal which you sent us for our collection, which we keep in a show case in the meeting room of the Commission?

Sincerely yours,

CLARENCE D. CLARK

Chairman

EXHIBIT 2

May 19, 1944.

Dear Mr. Wyeth:

The Commission of Fine Arts, at their meeting on May 18, 1944, approved the designs which you submitted for public school buildings,----

(a) Kimball Elementary School

(b) Adelaide Davis School.

It is understood that a few suggestions that were made, particularly by Dr. Cret, will be embodied in the final drawings.

Also the Commission approved the design submitted for a "Central Kitchen" to be built at Gallinger Hospital.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,

GILMORE D. CLARKE,

Chairman.

Hon. Nathan C. Wyeth,
Municipal Architect,
District Building,
Washington, D.C.

EXHIBIT D

May 12, 1944

Dear Mr. Wether:

The Commission of Fine Arts, at their meeting on May 12,

1944, approved the design which you submitted for public

school buildings, ---

(a) Kimball Elementary School

(b) Adelaide Davis School.

It is understood that a few suggestions were made,

particularly by Mr. Cret, will be embodied in the final drawings.

Also the Commission approved the design submitted for a

"Central Kitchen" to be built at Gallinger Hospital.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,

WILLIAM D. WHEELER

Chairman

Hon. Nathan C. Wether,
Municipal Architect,
District Building,
Washington, D.C.

EXHIBIT B

May 20, 1944.

Dear Mr. Howe:

The Commission of Fine Arts, at their meeting on May 18, 1944, were pleased to inspect the sketches which you presented for a State Department Building on Square 167 on the west side of Lafayette Park, in connection with the model presented by Mr. Partridge, for public buildings adjacent to Lafayette Park and the White House.

The scheme suggesting a high building occupying this entire Square, leaving the Blair-Lee Mansions and the Decatur House in their present locations, was disapproved. The Commission advise that these houses, crowded against an office building and thus deprived of their gardens, would result in a compromise that would completely destroy the value of the houses as well as to create a thoroughly unsatisfactory office building. It may be said that these houses, without their gardens, are not houses at all. There can be no compromise; there should be all office building or all small buildings at least on the east half of this Square.

The Commission suggest that further study be given to the project. It is conceivable that a building might be designed for the westerly half of the Square, which should be kept within the present zoning envelope. At some later time this may be added to by erecting an appropriate structure on a portion of the easterly half of the Square, one which would be appropriate and harmonious architecturally to this, one of the last important sites remaining near the White House.

While the Blair-Lee Mansions and the Decatur House are valued for local historic and sentimental reasons, the Commission do not believe that they are sufficiently important architecturally to justify retaining, if in the judgment of those concerned, a building to accommodate the Department of State is desirable and necessary in this important Square west of Lafayette Park. There is no doubt but that it has become increasingly important to provide houses for distinguished guests of the Government, but these houses should be appropriately situated with respect to both their location and their environment. While the Blair-Lee Mansions and the Decatur House doubtless serve this purpose satisfactorily, it is to be questioned whether or not they would so remain unless protected through the

May 20, 1944

Dear Mr. Howe:

The Commission of the Arts, at their meeting on May 12, 1944, were pleased to inspect the historical site located on the State Department Building on Square 12 on the west side of Lafayette Park, in connection with the model presented by Mr. Pennington, the public buildings adjacent to Lafayette Park and the White House.

The scheme suggesting a high building occupying this entire Square, leaving the Blair-Beaumont House and the Foster House in their present locations, was disapproved. The Commission believes that these houses, crowded against an office building and thus deprived of their gardens, would result in a compromise that would completely destroy the value of the houses as well as to create a thoroughly unsatisfactory office building. It may be said that these houses, without their gardens, are not houses at all. There can be no compromise; there should be an office building or all small buildings at least on the east half of this Square.

The Commission suggests that further study be given to the project. It is conceivable that a building might be designed for the western half of the Square, which would be built within the present zoning envelope. At some later date this may be added to by adding an appropriate structure on a portion of the eastern half of the Square, one which would be appropriate and harmonious architecturally to this, one of the last important sites remaining near the White House.

While the Blair-Beaumont House and the Foster House are valued for local historic and architectural reasons, the Commission do not believe that they are sufficient reasons for recommending to justify retaining, if in the judgment of those concerned, a building to accommodate the Department of State is desirable and necessary in this important square west of Lafayette Park. There is no doubt but that it has become increasingly important to provide houses for distinguished guests of the Government, but these houses would be appropriately situated with respect to both their location and their environment. While the Blair-Beaumont House and the Foster House doubtless serve this purpose satisfactorily, it is to be questioned whether or not they would remain viable protected through the

governmental ownership of other lands in the immediate environs. This brings up many questions concerning whether or not these buildings should be retained in their existing places on this Square and if so should other buildings, at least those on the East half, be removed so that additional structures, of the character of these old houses, might be constructed in rather spacious settings including appropriate gardens. This is one solution. A second would be to acquire still another Square to which the Blair-Lee Mansions and the Decatur House might be moved, or reconstructed in whole or in part, thus leaving the Square west of Lafayette Park for a monumental office building.

There are other problems, including those of vehicular circulation, and of parking, which demand the attention of the National Capital Park and Planning Commission and which must be carefully considered before the character of any development on this Square may be determined upon.

Sincerely yours,

FOR THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS,

Gilmore D. Clarke,

Chairman.

Hon. George Howe,
Supervising Architect,
Public Buildings Administration,
Federal Works Agency,
Washington, D.C.

EXHIBIT E

Governmental ownership of other lands in the immediate vicinity. The
 bridge up many questions concerning whether or not these buildings
 should be retained in their existing places on this bridge and if so
 should other buildings, at least those on the West side, be removed,
 so that additional structures, of the character of the old houses,
 might be constructed in their existing settings including appropriate
 gardens. This is one solution. A second would be to remove still
 another square to which the Biltmore Foundation and the American House
 be moved, or reconstructed in whole or in part, thus leaving the Square
 west of Lafayette Park for a monumental office building.

There are other problems, including those of vehicular circulation,
 and of parking, which demand the attention of the National Capital Park
 and Planning Commission and which must be carefully considered before
 the character of any development on this square may be determined upon.

Sincerely yours,

FOR THE COMMISSION ON THE CITY

William L. Clarke,

Chairman.

Hon. George Howe,
 Supervising Architect,
 Public Buildings Administration,
 Federal Works Agency,
 Washington, D.C.

EXHIBIT E

COPY

Federal Works Agency
Public Buildings Administration

Washington, D.C.

May 30, 1944.

Mr. Gilmore D. Clarke, Chairman,
The Commission of Fine Arts,
Interior Department Building,
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Clarke:

This will acknowledge receipt of your letter of May 20th,
setting forth the opinion of the Commission of Fine Arts concerning
the preliminary plans and sketches of the State Department Building
and the State Department Annex.

I assure you that your suggestions will receive first
consideration in our further studies.

Sincerely yours,

GEORGE HOWE,

Supervising Architect

EXHIBIT E-1

COPY

Federal Works Agency
Public Buildings Administration

Washington, D.C.
May 30, 1944

Mr. Gilmore D. Clarke, Chairman,
The Commission of Fine Arts,
Interior Department Building,
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Clarke:

This will acknowledge receipt of your letter of May 24th,
setting forth the opinion of the Commission of Fine Arts concerning
the preliminary plans and sketches of the State Department Building
and the State Department Annex.

I assure you that your suggestions will receive first
consideration in our further studies.

Sincerely yours,

CHARLES F. MANN

Supervising Architect

EXHIBIT F-1

June 12, 1944.

Dear Mr. Root:

A few months ago Mr. Horace W. Peaslee, architect, who designed the pedestal for the Armillary Sphere in the Lower Garden of Meridian Hill Park, inquired about having the sphere gold leafed. We took up the matter with the sculptor, Mr. C. Paul Jennewein, 538 Van Nest Avenue, Bronx, New York, and he replied on April 7, 1944, as follows:

"Regarding the Armillary Sphere, I am very much in favor of having it gold leafed, and I would very much like to see it done. It was spoken of originally, but we also knew that it would have to be repeated every ten to fifteen years."

Further inquiry was made as to the probable cost of the work, and Mr. Jennewein replied on April 12, 1944, as follows:

"Regarding the cost of using gold leaf on the Armillary Sphere, I would say that the cost would not be less than three hundred dollars (\$300.00), and any good painter would do the work.

"I would like to suggest, however, that instead of gold leafing the entire bronze, I would prefer to see just the ornaments, such as the stars, lines, and figures in gold leaf. The late Mr. Charles Borie had a small replica of the sphere, and had it done this way. The result was most effective. In this way you could save a great amount of gold, and enhance the effect."

The Commission of Fine Arts, at their meeting on May 18, 1944, considered the matter and concurred in the suggestions to have the Armillary Sphere gold leafed as above indicated.

The matter is brought to your attention for appropriate action. I think it was intended to consult the donor, Miss Bertha Noyes, 614 19th Street, N.W., concerning the question of funds to defray the expense of gold leafing the sphere.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,

Mr. Irving C. Root, Superintendent,
National Capital Parks,
National Park Service,
Department of the Interior,
Washington, D.C.

Gilmore D. Clarke,
Chairman

EXHIBIT F

Copy to: Mr. Peaslee.

June 12, 1944

Dear Mr. Root:

A few months ago Mr. Horace T. Pease, Director, National Capital Park Service, inquired about having the sphere gold leafed. He had the matter with the sculptor, Mr. G. Paul Jennewein, 108 West 14th Avenue, Bronx, New York, and he replied on April 7, 1944, as follows:

"Regarding the Military Sphere, I am very much in favor of having it gold leafed, and I shall endeavor to see it done. It was spoken of originally, and it was said that it would have to be repeated every ten to fifteen years."

Further inquiry was made as to the probable cost of the work, and Mr. Jennewein replied on April 12, 1944, as follows:

"Regarding the cost of having gold leaf on the Military Sphere, I would say that the cost would not be less than three hundred dollars (\$300.00), and any good artist would do the work."

"I would like to advise, however, that instead of gold leafing the entire sphere, I would prefer to see, on the ornaments, such as the stars, lines, and figures, in gold leaf. The late Mr. Charles Foulke had a small replica of the sphere, and he done this job. The result was most effective. In this way you would have a great amount of gold, and enhance the effect."

The Commission of Fine Arts, at their meeting on May 12, 1944, considered the matter and concurred in the suggestion to have the Military Sphere gold leafed as above indicated.

The matter is brought to your attention for appropriate action. I think it was intended to consult the Board, which is now in session, N.Y., concerning the matter in regard to the expense of gold leafing the sphere.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Chairman, Board

James H. Lawrence,
Secretary

Mr. Irving O. Root, Superintendent,
National Capital Park Service,
Department of the Interior,
Washington, D.C.

Copy to: Mr. Pease.

COPY

May 19, 1944.

Dear Mr. Root:

At the meeting of the Commission of Fine Arts held on May 18, 1944, Mr. R. C. Parsons, Secretary of the National Casting Club, Room 2707 South Agriculture, Department of Agriculture, presented an application for permission to practice plug casting on the upper esplanade of Meridian Hill Park. It is proposed to kalsomine a small target about 30 inches in diameter on the lawn.

The Commission believe that this is an administrative matter coming under the jurisdiction of your office and have no objection to the use of Meridian Hill Park for this purpose.

Mr. Parsons also presented an application for permission to illuminate the easterly end of the Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Basin in order to practice casting there two or three evenings a week. It is proposed to place five or six lights on posts 20 feet high. The Commission believe that this will create an unusual glare and they do not approve the erection of these light posts. The Commission feel there should be no objection to practice casting at the Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Basin during the evening before dark.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,

GILMORE D. CLARKE,

Chairman

Mr. Irving C. Root, Superintendent,
National Capital Parks,
National Park Service,
Department of the Interior,
Washington, D.C.

EXHIBIT G

May 10, 1944

Dear Mr. Root:

At the meeting of the Commission of Fine Arts held on

May 18, 1944, Mr. W. C. Parsons, Secretary of the National

Geographic Names Board, presented an application for permission to practice

agriculture, presented an application for permission to practice

plus casting on two upper easels of the Lincoln Memorial. It

is proposed to install a small tower about 30 inches in

diameter on the lawn.

The Commission believe that this is an administrative matter

coming under the jurisdiction of your office and have no objection to

the use of Maridian Hill Park for this purpose.

Mr. Parsons also presented an application for permission to

illuminate the easterly end of the Lincoln Memorial reflecting basin

in order to practice casting there two or three evenings a week. It

is proposed to place five or six lights on posts 20 feet high. The

Commission believe that this will create an unusual glare and they do

not approve the erection of these light posts. The Commission think

there should be no objection to practice casting at the Lincoln Memorial

reflecting basin during the evening before dark.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,

CLARENCE D. LLOYD

Chairman

Mr. Irving C. Root, Superintendent,
National Geographic Society,
National Park Service,
Department of the Interior,
Washington, D.C.

May 19, 1944.

Dear Mr. Rowan:

The Commission of Fine Arts, at their meeting on May 18, 1944, considered the "progress photograph" submitted with your letter of May 3d, of the head of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt for a dedicatory plaque by Miss Selma Burke, to be placed in the Recorder of Deeds Building.

Being a "progress photograph" the Commission hesitate to make any comment concerning the model in its incomplete stage. The Commission would like to see a photograph of the completed model before the plaque is cast. Also the Commission would like to know whether or not the portrayal of the President on this plaque as proposed is agreeable to him.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,

GILMORE D. CLARKE,

Chairman

Mr. Edward B. Rowan,
Fine Arts Consultant,
Public Buildings Administration,
Federal Works Agency,
Washington, D.C.

EXHIBIT H

May 16, 1944

Dear Mr. Tamm:

The Commission of Fine Arts, at their meeting on May 11, 1944, considered the "progress photograph" submitted with your letter of May 24, of the head of President Franklin D. Roosevelt for a dedicatory plaque by Miss Helen Burke, to be placed in the Recorder of Deeds Building.

Being a "progress photograph" the Commission hesitate to make any comment concerning the model in its incomplete stage. The Commission would like to see a photograph of the completed model before the plaque is cast. Also the Commission would like to know whether or not the portrayal of the President on this plaque as proposed is agreeable to him.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Very truly yours,
WILLIAM D. HOWARD
Chairman

Mr. Howard D. Howard,
Fine Arts Consultant,
Public Buildings Administration,
Federal Works Agency,
Washington, D.C.

COPY

May 19, 1944.

My dear Mr. Lynn:

The Commission of Fine Arts, at their meeting on May 18, 1944, were much pleased to inspect the Samuel F. B. Morse Memorial Plaque at the Capitol, and approved it. The location on the exterior wall of the room from which Prof. Morse sent his historic message is eminently fitting for this work of art. The artists, Lee Lawrie, sculptor, and William T. Partidge, architect, as well as the Medallion Art Company, are to be congratulated on the splendid result achieved in cooperation with you in so short a space of time.

It was a real pleasure to make the inspection with you and the Members of Congress who were at one time telegraphers and to see them demonstrate on the historic instrument from which Morse flashed his first telegram.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,

GILMORE D. CLARKE,

Chairman.

Hon. David Lynn,
Architect of the Capitol,
Washington, D.C.

EXHIBIT I

May 10, 1944

Mr. David L. Ryan:

The Commission of Fine Arts, at their meeting on May 10, 1944, were much pleased to inspect and discuss the model of the plaque at the Capitol, and approved it. The location on the exterior wall of the room from which Mr. Ryan sent his letter message is eminently fitting for this work of art. The artist, Lee Lawrie, sculptor, and William L. Tarrance, architect, as well as the Medallion Company, are to be congratulated on the splendid results achieved in cooperation with you in so short a space of time. It was a real pleasure to have the inspection with you and the members of Congress who were at the time telephoned and to see them demonstrate on the historic inscription from which these designs his first telegram.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Respectfully yours,

Director of the Capitol

Enclosure

Mr. David L. Ryan,

Architect of the Capitol,

Washington, D.C.

RECEIVED

COPY

ARCHITECT OF THE CAPITOL

Washington

May 27, 1944.

Mr. Gilmore D. Clarke, Chairman,
The Commission of Fine Arts,
Interior Department Building,
Washington, D.C.

My dear Mr. Clarke:

I wish to express my appreciation for your efforts in connection with the inspection of the Samuel F. B. Morse Memorial Plaque, which has now been dedicated and accepted as of the 24th of May, 1944, and placed on the wall adjacent to the Law Library, United States Capitol, from which room the historic message "What Hath God Wrought!" was sent to Baltimore one hundred years ago, May 24, 1844.

I will be pleased to forward you, in the near future, a photograph of this plaque.

Sincerely yours,

DAVID LYNN,

Architect of the Capitol

EXHIBIT I-1

NOTY

ANALYST OF THE OFFICE

WASHINGTON

MAY 27, 1944

Mr. Gilmore B. Clarke, Chairman,
The Commission of Fine Arts,
Interior Department Building,
Washington, D.C.

My dear Mr. Clarke:

I wish to express my appreciation for

your efforts in connection with the inspection of the

Samuel R. B. Morse Memorial Window, which has now been

dedicated and accepted as of the 24th of May, 1944, and

placed on the wall adjacent to the Law Library, United States

Capitol, from which room the historic message, "What Hath

God Wrought!" was sent to Baltimore one hundred years

ago, May 24, 1944.

I will be pleased to forward you, in the

near future, a photo copy of this display.

Sincerely yours,

DAVID LEE

Director of the Capitol

COPY

ARCHITECT OF THE CAPITOL

Washington

April 15, 1944

Mr. Gilmore D. Clarke, Chairman,
The Commission of Fine Arts,
Interior Department Building,
Washington, D.C.

My dear Mr. Clarke:

I wish to acknowledge your letter of February 23,
1944, and in reply to advise you that I am in favor of the
establishment of a War Art Museum in Washington and will be
glad to lend any assistance that I can when definite action
in this matter is initiated.

Yours very truly,

DAVID LYNN,

Architect of the Capitol.

EXHIBIT J

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Washington

April 18, 1944

Mr. William D. Rouse, Chairman,
The Commission on the Status of
Indian Reservations,
Interior Department Building,
Washington, D.C.

My dear Mr. Rouse:

I wish to acknowledge your letter of February 10, 1944, and in reply to advise you that I am in favor of the establishment of a War Relocation Authority in Washington and will be glad to lend any assistance that I can when definite action in this matter is initiated.

Yours very truly,

DAVID L. RAY

Director of the Capitol

UNITED STATES

COPY

NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART

Smithsonian Institution

Washington, D.C.

May 16, 1944.

Dear Mr. Caemmerer:

I have received your letter of May 4th and shall be grateful if you will advise Major Clarke that I have taken steps to determine whether or not the china bequeathed to the United States, under the will of Annabel Lee Frey, is authentic and should be accepted for display in the White House.

The National Savings and Trust Company is arranging to have the china brought to Washington where it can be compared with similar china now in the White House. I will make a further report after there has been an opportunity to view the china mentioned in the bequest and will then make a recommendation to the Commission as to whether, in my opinion, the china should be accepted.

Sincerely yours,

David E. Finley

Mr. H. P. Caemmerer, Secretary,
The Commission of Fine Arts,
Interior Department Building,
Washington, D.C.

EXHIBIT K

1937

WATSON CLARK OF THE

Architectural Institute

Washington, D.C.

May 12, 1937.

Dear Mr. Commissioner:

I have received your letter of May 4th and shall be

grateful if you will advise Major Clarke that I have taken steps
to determine whether or not the china presented to the United States,
under the will of Annabel Lee Fry, is authentic and should be
accepted for display in the White House.

The National Savings and Trust Company is arranging to have
the china brought to Washington where it can be compared with similar
china now in the White House. I will make a further report after
there has been an opportunity to view the china mentioned in the
request and will then make a recommendation to the Commission as
to whether, in my opinion, the china should be accepted.

Sincerely yours,

W. H. E. Finley

Mr. H. F. Gammeter, Secretary,
The Commission of Fine Arts,
Interior Department Building,
Washington, D.C.

W. H. E. Finley

The Regents of the Smithsonian Institution, The Commission of Fine Arts, and Miss Katharine N. Rhoades, or Mrs. Eugene E. Meyer, as provided in Paragraph 4 of the Codicil to the Will of the late Charles L. Freer, have examined the following objects:

- 1 Pottery Bowl, Persian, 11th century, Aghkand.
- 2 Portrait paintings, Chinese, Sung dynasty
- 1 Album painting. Three horses. Chinese, Yuan dynasty.
Attributed to Chao Meng-fu
- 1 Album painting. Three and swallows. Chinese, Sung
dynasty. Attributed to Wang Hsien.
- 1 Album painting. Landscape. Chinese, Sung dynasty.
- 1 Album painting. Man on water-buffalo. Chinese,
Sung dynasty.
- 18 Lacquer Inro. Japanese
- 9 Lacquer Boxes. Japanese.
- 1 Painting. Japanese, by Okyo
- 1 Lacquer figure. Chinese, T'ang dynasty,

which have been recommended for purchase for the Freer Gallery of Art by Mr. A. G. Wenley, Director, and they hereby approve the purchase.

For the Regents of the Smithsonian Institution

Gilmore D. Clarke, Chairman
For the Commission of Fine Arts

May 18, 1944.

EXHIBIT L

The reports of the Smithsonian Institution, the Department of the Interior, and the War Department, of Mrs. Katharine M. Innes, as provided in Paragraph 4 of the Contract to the effect that the following objects:

- 1 Pottery Bowl, Persian, fifth century, (Ghazni).
- 2 Portrait painting, Chinese, Sung dynasty.
- 1 Album painting, Chinese, Yuan dynasty. Attributed to Zhao Mengfu.
- 1 Album painting, Chinese and Japanese, Sung dynasty. Attributed to Wang Meng.
- 1 Album painting, Chinese, Sung dynasty.
- 1 Album painting, Man on water-lily, Chinese, Sung dynasty.
- 18 Lacquer Inro, Japanese.
- 2 Lacquer boxes, Japanese.
- 1 Painting, Japanese, of Kyo.
- 1 Lacquer figure, Chinese, Tang dynasty.

have been recommended for purchase for the Department of the Interior, and they hereby approve the purchase.

For the reports of the Smithsonian Institution

Alfred C. Mearns, Director
for the Commission of the War

May 18, 1944.

EXHIBIT 1

COPY

May 19, 1944.

Dear Mr. Rowan:

The Commission of Fine Arts, at their meeting on May 18, 1944, inspected the models of the soldier figures by Henry Kreis, sculptor, to flank the mural painting in the lobby of the War Department Building at Twenty-first Street and Virginia Avenue, Northwest.

The Commission approved the models. It is understood that the figures will not be set in place permanently until after the War.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,

GILMORE D. CLARKE,

Chairman

Mr. Edward B. Rowan,
Assistant Chief,
Section of Fine Arts,
Public Buildings Administration,
Federal Works Agency,
Washington, D.C.

EXHIBIT M

May 15, 1944

Dear Mr. Rowan:

The Commission of Fine Arts, at their meeting on May 15, 1944, inspected the models of the soldier figure by Henry Kissel, sculptor, to flank the mural painting in the lobby of the War Department Building at Twenty-first Street and Wisconsin Avenue, Northwest.

The Commission approved the models. It is understood that the figures will not be set in place permanently until after the War.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,

WILLIAM D. ROWAN

Chairman

Mr. Edward R. Rowan,
Assistant Chief,
Section of Fine Arts,
Public Buildings Administration,
Federal Works Agency,
Washington, D.C.

WILLIAM D. ROWAN

June 12, 1944.

Dear Mr. Simpson:

The Commission of Fine Arts, at their meeting on May 18, 1944, were informed, unofficially, of your model for a monument proposed for erection at Guadalcanal.

Until this matter is referred officially by the Navy Department to the Commission of Fine Arts, the Commission could take no action concerning it.

The question of World War II Memorials will be a very important one at the close of the War. In the meantime we shall have to wait for an official submission of this memorial project to the Commission.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,

Gilmore D. Clarke,
Chairman

Mr. Wm. Marks Simpson, Sculptor,
Hq. Co. Service Command,
A. P. O. 709, c/o Postmaster,
San Francisco, California.

P.S. Since the Commission of Fine Arts is familiar with your ability as a sculptor, I think the Commission could pass on suitably enlarged photographs of your model, thus saving shipment of it to Washington.

G. D. C.

EXHIBIT N

June 12, 1944

Dear Mr. Simpson:

The Commission of Fine Arts, at their meeting on May 10, 1944, were informed, unofficially, of your model for a monument proposed for erection at Washington.

Until this letter is received officially by the War Department to the Commission of Fine Arts, the Commission could take no action concerning it.

The question of how to handle this will be very important one at the close of the War. It is possible we shall have to wait for an official commission to this project to the Commission.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Respectfully,
Director

Director of Fine Arts,
Washington

Mr. W. W. Runkle, Director,
U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey,
Washington, D.C.
U.S. Navy, c/o Washington,
San Francisco, California.

P.S. Since the Commission of Fine Arts is located at the Smithsonian Institution, I think the Commission could have an enlarged photograph of your model, and having signed it to Washington.

W. W. R.

EXHIBIT

COPY

THE NEWS AND OBSERVER

Josephus Daniels, President,
Raleigh, N.C.

May 11, 1944

Major Gilmore D. Clarke,
Fine Arts Commission,
Interior Department,
Washington, D.C.

Dear Major Clarke:

I was in Washington last week, and I had the pleasure of seeing Mr. Caemmerer, secretary of your Commission, and talked with him about trying to secure the help of the Fine Arts Commission and giving suggestions about the proposed monuments of Presidents Andrew Jackson, James K. Polk and Andrew Johnson, to be erected on the capitol square in Raleigh. Last year, the legislature appointed a committee to make a report to the next General Assembly. I am sending you an SOS for help and advice. Mr. Caemmerer was good enough to come to see me and give suggestions. Could you come down and give me some suggestions?

With warm regards,

Sincerely yours,

JOSEPHUS DANIELS

JD:mw

EXHIBIT O

THE NEW AND OBSERVE
Josephus Daniels, President
Raleigh, N.C.

May 11, 1944

Major Gilmore D. Clarke,
Fine Arts Commission,
Interior Department,
Washington, D.C.

Dear Major Clarke:

I was in Washington last week, and I had the pleasure of seeing Mr. Caspary, secretary of your Commission, and talked with him about trying to secure the help of the Fine Arts Commission and giving suggestions about the proposed monuments of Presidents Andrew Jackson, James K. Polk and Andrew Johnson, to be erected on the Capitol square in Raleigh. Last year, the legislature appointed a committee to make a report to the next General Assembly. I am sending you an SOS for help and advice. Mr. Caspary was good enough to come to see me and give suggestions. Could you come down and give me some suggestions?

With warm regards,

Sincerely yours,

JOSEPHUS DANIELS

JD:mw

EXHIBIT 0

MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

Held in Washington, D. C., June 22, 1944.

The fourth meeting of the Commission of Fine Arts during the fiscal year 1944 was held in its office in the Interior Department Building on Thursday, June 22, 1944. The following members were present:

Mr. Clarke, Chairman,
Mr. Lamb,
Dr. Cret,
Mr. Holabird,
Mr. Finley,

also H. P. Caemmerer, Secretary and
Administrative Officer.

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETING: The Minutes of the meeting of the Commission of Fine Arts, held on May 18, 1944, were approved.

2. "SENATE RESOLUTION" PERTAINING TO PRINTING THE FOURTEENTH REPORT: The Secretary reported the following action on printing the Fourteenth Report:

Extract from the Congressional Record of June 1, 1944, page 5235,--

SENATE

Report of the Commission of Fine Arts:

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, which was read, and, with the accompanying report, referred to the Committee on the Library:

To the Congress of the United States:

I transmit herewith for the information of the Congress the report of the Commission of Fine Arts of their activities during the period from January 1, 1940, to June 30, 1944.

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT

The White House, June 1, 1944.

The following is a list of the names of the persons who have been appointed to the various positions in the Bureau of Land Management, for the year 1944.

Year 1944 was held in the office of the Director, Bureau of Land Management.

Director, Bureau of Land Management, Washington, D.C.

- Mr. J. H. ...
- Mr. ...
- Mr. ...
- Mr. ...
- Mr. ...

and ...

Administrative Director

The following is a list of the names of the persons who have been appointed to the various positions in the Bureau of Land Management, for the year 1944.

1. ...

of the ...

2. ...

3. ...

4. ...

...

...

The ...

...

...

...

The ...

Extract from the Congressional Record of June 16, 1944, Page 6094:

SENATE

Report of the Commission of Fine Arts (S. Doc.No.204)

MR. BARKLEY: Mr. President, on the 1st of June this year the President sent to the Congress the Fourteenth Report of the Commission of Fine Arts for the period from January 1, 1940, to June 30, 1944. Heretofore these reports have been printed as Senate or House documents, including the illustrations. It is a very valuable publication. I ask unanimous consent that the report to which I have just referred be printed as a Senate document with illustrations.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the Senator from Kentucky? The Chair hears none, and it is so ordered.

The Commission expressed their appreciation of this action of the Senate in a letter to Senator Barkley (Exhibit A).

3. PLANS FOR NEW BRIDGES AT FOURTEENTH STREET: Capt. H. C. Whitehurst, Director of Highways of the District of Columbia, submitted six sets of plans received in competition, for two 4-lane bridges (one for out-going and one for incoming traffic, the two bridges to be of identical design) at Fourteenth Street to take the place of the old Highway Bridge. The plans were marked consecutively 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6. Each set of plans was considered anonymously by the Commission. Dr. Cret was not present during the inspection, since he was associated as consulting architect with engineers who submitted one set of plans. Capt. Whitehurst explained features of each set of plans.

Capt. Whitehurst said that estimates by competent engineers indicated that one 8-lane bridge would cost as much as two 4-lane bridges. He added that one 6-lane bridge would cost approximately \$1,000,000 less than the two 4-lane bridges, but would not meet the traffic requirements after it was built. An

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additional bridge crossing the river at Alexandria would not help traffic conditions at the 14th Street crossing.

The bridges are proposed to be approximately 500 feet apart. The Highway Bridge carried 51,000 vehicles a day before Pearl Harbor and is now carrying 39,000 vehicles in 24 hours under a most restricted auto schedule; 21% of the vehicles are trucks. The floor of the Highway Bridge is rotting and the draw-span machinery is in bad condition. If the bridge should break down the Arlington Memorial Bridge is the only one available for use, which means that trucks would have to use it.

Mr. Clarke then read a letter (Exhibit B) that was sent by Mr. Thomas H. MacDonald, Administrator of the Bureau of Public Roads, to Mr. A. E. Demaray, Acting Executive Officer of the National Capital Park and Planning Commission, in support of the two-bridge scheme. Capt. Whitehurst said this letter was written after Mr. MacDonald had inspected the bridge plans received in the competition.

After carefully reviewing all of the plans submitted the Commission of Fine Arts came to the conclusion that design No. 1 best meets the solution of the problem. A report was sent to Capt. Whitehurst indicating the Commission's preference for the plans in the following order of preference,-- Nos. 1 - 5A - 3. (Exhibit C).

Major General Grant III, Chairman of the National Capital Park and Planning Commission, requested a joint session with the Commission during the afternoon; this was held, beginning at 3:00 p.m. At the meeting General Grant stated that the National Capital Park and Planning Commission had inspected the plans for the bridges earlier in the afternoon but was still of the opinion that one six-lane bridge would meet all traffic requirements at Fourteenth Street, it being understood that an additional bridge to cross the Potomac

at Alexandria would be built when needed.

Mr. Clarke, speaking for the Commission of Fine Arts, stated that the Commission was not called upon to advise on the traffic problem involved at Fourteenth Street, since the Bureau of Public Roads in cooperation with the Highway Department of the District had their experts go into this matter thoroughly and had pointed out that eight lanes of travel are necessary at Fourteenth Street to meet future needs. He added further that since one eight-lane bridge would be too wide for practical purposes (over 125 feet) the Commissioners of the District of Columbia had decided to have designs prepared for two 4-lane bridges, one for out-going and one for incoming traffic.

4. GRADE SEPARATION SCHEME AT KLINGLE ROAD AND PORTER STREETS: With Mr. Lamb in the Chair, Capt. H. C. Whitehurst, Director of Highways of the District of Columbia, submitted a set of plans made by the firm of Clarke, Rapuano & Holleran, Consulting Engineers and Landscape Architects, of New York City, for a grade separation scheme at Klinge Road and Porter Streets, across Rock Creek, in Rock Creek Park. Also a model of the scheme was presented.

It is proposed to use stone masonry facing for all bridges and retaining walls, similar to that of the old Pierce Mill in Rock Creek Park.

The Commission considered the scheme appropriate and desirable, and approved it (Exhibit D).

5. GRADE SEPARATION SCHEME FOR CONSTITUTION AND PENNSYLVANIA AVENUES AT JOHN MARSHALL PLACE AND FOURTH STREETS: With Mr. Lamb in the Chair, Capt. H. C. Whitehurst, Director of Highways of the District of Columbia, submitted plans made by the firm of Clarke, Rapuano & Holleran, Consulting Engineers and Landscape Architects, of New York City, of a grade separation scheme for Constitution and Pennsylvania Avenues, at John Marshall Place and Fourth Street.

Mr. Clarke stated that in the study of the scheme it had been decided to keep Constitution Avenue in tact so as to maintain its dignity. Pennsylvania Avenue would be depressed from Third to Sixth Streets; providing for two auto lanes and a street car line (raised about 9 inches to protect it from autos) in each direction. This would be removed when, at some time in the future, street cars would be abandoned, thus giving three traffic lanes in each direction.

Mr. Finley took special note of the scheme in view of the fact that the National Gallery of Art is at that location. Mr. Finley said the crossing at Sixth Street is dangerous and he welcomed such a scheme as this for safety purposes.

In general the Commission regarded the plans satisfactory, but no action was taken concerning them. They are to serve as a basis for further study.

6. WAR ART MUSEUM AND PORTRAIT GALLERY: Mr. Finley reported that in connection with the suggestion recently adopted to use the old Hadfield Court House for a War Art Museum, after being vacated by the Courts, it is now desirable to use the building also for a Portrait Gallery. Mr. Finley said he receives offers of portraits continually but had no place for them; while not works of art generally, they are of historic value.

The Commission favored the idea.

Mr. Finley said he hopes it will be possible to get authorization from Congress soon to use the building for a War Art Museum and Portrait Gallery, after the Courts vacate the building, because then portraits offered can be accepted and could be stored while a new court building is authorized and built.

7. SAMUEL F. B. MORSE PLAQUE: The Chairman presented a letter from Honorable David Lynn, Architect of the Capitol (Exhibit E) expressing appreciation of the assistance given by the Commission of Fine Arts in providing the

Samuel F. B. Morse Plaque for the Capitol.

8. CHINESE RESTAURANT: The Chairman presented a letter (Exhibit F) received from the Commissioners of the District of Columbia, calling attention to the fact that the location at 14 F Street, Northwest, is not, in the opinion of the Office of the Corporation Counsel, in the Shipstead-Luce Act area.

9. PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT PLAQUE: The Chairman presented a letter (Exhibit G) from Mr. Edward B. Rowan of the Section of Fine Arts, reporting that the President favors the installation of a plaque as proposed in the Recorder of Deeds Building.

10. WORLD WAR II CEMETERIES:

(a) The Secretary presented a photostat copy of a Report (in two volumes) prepared under the direction of the Quartermaster General, Major General E. B. Gregory, on the subject of World War II Cemeteries. This Report has been sent to the Committee on Military Affairs of the House of Representatives. It proposes at least one additional Military Cemetery in each State of the Union, including one additional in or near the District of Columbia. It is made available to the Commission for future reference.

It is understood that the Report recommends legislation to empower the Secretary of War to engage private professional firms to design the cemeteries, and that the designs shall have the approval of the National Commission of Fine Arts; in fact Part V of the Report seems quite definite in this matter.

The Commission discussed the subject and decided to give the matter particular attention after the Congress enacts appropriate legislation.

(b). The Chairman presented the following letter received from Hon. Robert Moses, Commissioner of Parks of New York City:

June 2, 1944.

Major Gilmore D. Clarke,
10 Rockefeller Plaza,
New York City.

Dear Gilmore:

Here are a few photos of the National Cemetery at Cypress Hills

General T. B. Howard is the one for the subject.

8. CHINESE REPRESENTATIVE: The Chinese presented a letter (Exhibit 1)

received from the Commissioners of the Bureau of Chinese Affairs, dated 1/1/21,

to the fact that the location at 14 1/2 Street, New York, is the

location of the Office of the Corporation Council, in the Chinatown-Low 2nd Street.

9. PRESIDENT HOOVER'S LETTER: The President presented a letter (Exhibit 2)

from Mr. Edward B. Rosen of the Society of Five Civilized Tribes, requesting that the President

leave the installation of a statue in the National Academy of Sciences.

10. WORLD WAR II COMMISSION:

(a) The Secretary presented a photograph copy of a report (Exhibit 3)

prepared under the direction of the Quartermaster General, dated January 1, 1918.

Gregory, on the subject of World War II Commissions. This report was sent

to the Committee on Military Affairs of the House of Representatives.

Proposed at least one additional Military Commission in each State of the Union.

Including one additional in or near the District of Columbia. It is urged

available to the Commission for their reference.

It is understood that the report recommended the following:

Secretary of War to engage private professional firms to design the commissions.

that the design shall have the approval of the National Academy of Sciences.

in Part V of the Report some other details in this regard.

The Commission discussed the report and decided to give the matter

particular attention after the Congress meets in January 1921.

(b) The Chairman presented the following letter from the President:

James, Commissioner of Lands of New York State:

Major General J. G. Thompson,
10 Rockefeller Plaza,
New York City.
Dear General:

Enclosed are two copies of the report of the Commission on the

(STATEN ISLAND). God Forbid that there should be another thing like it. I think you could help us materially with the project up in the hills in Staten Island.

Cordially,

Robert Moses.

The Chairman stated that he had sent a reply to Mr. Moses (Exhibit H)

11. FREER GALLERY OF ART: In the afternoon the Commission inspected several objects of art proposed for purchase at the Freer Gallery and approved them (Exhibit I).

12. JOINT SESSION WITH THE NATIONAL CAPITAL PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION:

The Commission met with the National Capital Park and Planning Commission, at the request of Major General U. S. Grant III, Chairman, at 3:00 p.m., and considered in particular the following projects:

- (a) New bridges at Fourteenth Street.
- (b) Grade Separation Scheme at Klinge Road and Porter Streets.
- (c) Enlarging the Arlington National Cemetery.

A copy of the Minutes of this Joint Session is attached hereto and is made a part of these Minutes.

Chairman Clarke sent a special letter to Major General Grant on the subject of enlarging the Arlington National Cemetery (Exhibit J).

The Commission adjourned at 4:00 p.m. The Commission were the guests of Director Finley at the National Gallery of Art at a delightful luncheon.

COPY

June 22, 1944.

My dear Senator Barkley:

The Commission of Fine Arts, at their meeting today, were much pleased to hear of the action of the United States Senate on June 16, 1944, on your recommendation, to have the Fourteenth Report of the Commission printed with illustrations. The Commission wish to express to you their grateful appreciation of your kindness in this matter.

It has been a real pleasure during the past years to cooperate with you in matters pertaining to the fine arts in which the Government is concerned.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,

Gilmore D. Clarke,
Chairman

Honorable Alben W. Barkley, Chairman,
Joint Committee on the Library,
United States Senate,
Washington, D. C.

Exhibit A.

Washington, D. C.

United States Senate,

Joint Committee on the Library,

Honorable Albert E. Barkley, Chairman,

William D. Clarke,
Chairman

Sincerely yours,

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

the Government is concerned.

cooperate with you in matters pertaining to the fine arts in which
It has been a real pleasure during the past years to

Your kindness in this matter.

Commission wish to express to you their grateful appreciation of
Report of the Commission printed with illustrations. The

on June 16, 1944, on your recommendation, to have the Fourteenth
much pleased to hear of the action of the United States Senate

The Commission of Fine Arts, at their meeting today, were

My dear Senator Barkley:

June 22, 1944.

June 8, 1944

Mr. A. E. Demaray,
Acting Executive Office,
National Capital Park and
Planning Commission,
Interior Building,
Washington 25, D. C.

My dear Mr. Demaray:

I have your letter of March 7 advising that the National Capital Park and Planning Commission has reaffirmed its previously expressed preference for a single 6-lane highway bridge to replace the present Highway Bridge across the Potomac River.

Your letter and the accompanying map have been carefully studied. We are sympathetic to the Commission's desire to "induce a better distribution of and inter-relationship between the residential population and the business and employment centers in the National Capital" but we fail to see how this can be accomplished by limiting the capacity of a Potomac River crossing so that it is not definitely adequate to meet probable traffic volumes and by choosing a design which does not fit the observed traffic turning movements. In my letter of January 12 to General Grant you were given the results of the very thorough analysis made by traffic engineers of wide experience and the figures for probable traffic and percentage of left turning vehicles lead to the conclusion that the crossing should be designed with two bridges several hundred feet apart, one for each direction of travel, each to be designed four lanes wide. On the same basis a single bridge six lanes wide would not be safely adequate and would fail to fully develop the capacity already constructed on both approaches.

I think it axiomatic that a crossing as important as that over the Potomac River at the Nation's Capital should be designed to serve adequately the probable traffic volume and traffic pattern. To provide an inadequate facility with the thought that the overload would sooner compel the building of a bridge at Alexandria goes contrary to all observed traffic history. It is neither sound design nor good city planning.

1. The first of these is the fact that the
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3. third of these is the fact that the
4. fourth of these is the fact that the
5. fifth of these is the fact that the
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7. seventh of these is the fact that the
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9. ninth of these is the fact that the
10. tenth of these is the fact that the

We cannot agree that the completion of the Henry G. Shirley Memorial Highway will reduce appreciably traffic from the south on the Mount Vernon Memorial Highway. The latter is an excellent parkway facility protected for all time from serious encroachment. It is the most direct route for passenger vehicles from the heart of Alexandria. Traffic diverted to the Shirley Highway will more than be made up by the expansion of housing near the Mount Vernon Highway. On the contrary, I look to the eventual increase in the width of the Mount Vernon Highway between Washington and Alexandria to six lanes in accordance with the original design.

You question my statement that the Pentagon Network is designed for three through traffic lanes in each direction by calling attention to the fact that Bridge No. 21 is constructed without added width for acceleration and deceleration. A call to any one of several men on our staff would have enabled you to learn why this bridge was not constructed as wide as the other. Be assured that the capacity of the Pentagon Network approach to Highway Bridge is three full lanes in each direction.

Comparative cost of two designs becomes pertinent only after it is determined that both designs are functionally competent. Two separate one-way bridges would cost slightly more than a single two-way bridge with the same number of traffic lanes but a comparison of structure costs only is not sufficient. If approaches also are considered, as they must, the total cost for the two-bridge plan would, in my judgment be less than the total cost, including demolition and replacement of existing structure of a one-bridge scheme of equal capacity.

You again refer to Mr. Oldstead's report at the November meeting regarding the impact of the two-bridge plan on the Jefferson Memorial and West Potomac Park. This report was given serious consideration not alone but in conjunction with the judgment of others fully competent to judge of the amenities. The predominant opinion favors the two-bridge plan. I am keenly sensitive of the effects of any construction on the National Capital particularly that require to meet the increasing needs of motor vehicle travel. The protection of the Arlington National Cemetery and its connection with the Lincoln Memorial from commercial traffic held a place of importance in my thinking when I advocated a long time adequacy for the 14th Street crossing. The reasons are given in my letter to General Grant.

Sound city planning calls for visualizing the future to the end so well stated in your letter but city planners always are conscious of their inability to wholly control the development of a city and to see precisely all future requirements. It is

to six lanes in each direction. The original design was for a four-lane highway with a median strip. The design was changed to a six-lane highway with a median strip. The design was changed to a six-lane highway with a median strip. The design was changed to a six-lane highway with a median strip.

For the purpose of this study, the design was changed to a six-lane highway with a median strip. The design was changed to a six-lane highway with a median strip. The design was changed to a six-lane highway with a median strip. The design was changed to a six-lane highway with a median strip.

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Some city planning calls for a six-lane highway with a median strip. The design was changed to a six-lane highway with a median strip. The design was changed to a six-lane highway with a median strip. The design was changed to a six-lane highway with a median strip.

necessary, therefore, that a plan and its component parts have flexibility so that they can be bent and adjusted to fit changing future needs. A crossing of the Potomac River and its approaches, in keeping with this principle, should have high capacity and be so arranged that it will permit full and continuous movement of all through and turning traffic even though the pattern may change appreciably at different times. These requirements, in my considered judgment, are met by the plan calling for two one-way bridges each four lanes wide one a few hundred feet downstream from the other, and are not satisfied by one two-way bridge six lanes wide.

I believe the several exchanges of letters and our attendance at meetings of your Commission have covered the ground thoroughly and that further conferences are unnecessary. If, however, your Commission feels that it has further pertinent data to offer, or if it feels that a further conference will help it to a greater familiarity with the data and analysis thereof that brought us to our conclusion, Deputy Commission Hilts will, upon request from you, make the necessary arrangements.

The commission's interest in all highway problems in the area and your keeping me informed of its conclusions are greatly appreciated.

Very truly yours,

Thos. H. MacDonald,

Commissioner of Public Roads.

cc- Mr. Gilmore D. Clarke

Exhibit B.

necessary, therefore, that a plan and its component parts have flexibility so that they can be bent and adjusted to the changing future needs. A crossing of the Potomac River and its approaches, in keeping with this principle, should have high capacity and be so arranged that it will permit full and continuous movement of all through and turning traffic even though the system may often be appreciably at different times. Those requirements, in my considered judgment, are met by the plan calling for two one-way bridges each four lanes wide and a few hundred feet downstream from the other, and are not satisfied by one two-way bridge six lanes wide.

I believe the several exchanges of letters and our attendance at meetings of your Commission have covered the ground thoroughly and that further conferences are unnecessary. It is, however, your Commission feels that it has further pertinent data to offer, or it feels that a further conference will help it to a greater familiarity with the data and analysis thereof that brought us to our conclusion. Deputy Commission Mitts will, upon request from you, make the necessary arrangements.

The Commission's interest in all highway problems in the area and your keeping us informed of its conclusions are greatly appreciated.

Very truly yours,

Thos. W. Nicholson,

Commissioner of Public Roads.

cc- Mr. Gilmore T. Blake

COPY

The Commission of Fine Arts
Washington, D.C

June 22, 1944.

Dear Captain Whitehurst:

The Commission of Fine Arts, at their meeting today, were pleased to inspect the six sets of ~~draw~~ drawings for two bridges (one for out-going and the other for in coming traffic) to replace the old Highway Bridge at Fourteenth Street. The Commission inspected these anonymously.

The Commission recommend the acceptance of drawings as follows, in order of preference:

No.1,

No.5 A,

No.3,

It was the consensus of opinion that submission No.1 was the outstanding solution of this problem. We suggest omitting the control house so that only the light standards extend above the top of the hand-rail.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,

Gilmore D. Clarke,
Chairman

Capt. H. C. Whitehurst,
Director of Highway,
District Building,
Washington, D. C.

Exhibit C.

Copy
The Commission of Fine Arts
Washington, D.C.

June 22, 1944.

Dear Captain Whitehurst:

The Commission of Fine Arts, at their meeting today, were pleased to inspect the six sets of drawings for two bridges (one for out-going and the other for in coming traffic) to replace the old Highway Bridge at Fourteenth Street. The Commission inspected these anonymously.

The Commission recommend the acceptance of drawings

as follows, in order of preference:

No. 1.

No. 2 A.

No. 3.

It was the consensus of opinion that submission No. 1 was the outstanding solution of this problem. We suggest omitting the control house so that only the light standards extend above the top of the hand-rail.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,

Gilmore D. Clarke,
Chairman

Capt. H. C. Whitehurst,
Director of Highway,
District Building,
Washington, D. C.

COPY

June 22, 1944.

Dear Captain Whitehurst:

The Commission of Fine Arts, at their meeting today, inspected the plans, including model, which you submitted as a study presented by messrs. Clarke, Rapuano and Holleran, Consulting Engineers and Landscape Architects, for a grade separation in Rock Creek Park at Klinge Ford and Porter Street.

The Commission approved the plans.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,

Gilmore D. Clarke,
Chairman

Capt. H. C. Whitehurst,
Director of Highways,
District Building,
Washington, D. C.

Exhibit D.

June 22, 1944.

Dear Captain Whitehurst:

The Commission of Fine Arts, at their meeting today, inspected the plans, including model, which you submitted as a study presented by Messrs. Clarke, Tapscott and Holleran, Consulting Engineers and Landscape Architects, for a grade separation in Rock Creek Park at Klingler Ford and Porter Street. The Commission approved the plans.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,

Gilmore D. Clarke,
Chairman

Capt. H. C. Whitehurst,
Director of Highways,
District Building,
Washington, D. C.

Encl.

COPY

June 13, 1944

Honorable Gilmore D. Clarke
Chairman, The Commission of Fine Arts
Interior Department Building
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Clarke:

I want you to know that the courteous and cooperative assistance which you and the other members of your Commission extended to the members of the Joint Congressional Committee on the Centennial of the Telegraph and to the Architect of the Capitol is very much appreciated.

I wish to take this opportunity to convey my personal thanks for all that your Commission did to help make the celebration of the Centennial of the Telegraph at the United States Capitol a success.

Sincerely yours,

(David Lynn)
Architect of the Capitol

Exhibit E.

June 13, 1914

Honorable William D. Clarke
Chairman, The Commission of Fine Arts
Interior Department Building
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Clarke:

I want you to know that the co-workers and

cooperative assistance which you and the other

members of your Commission extended to the members

of the Joint Congressional Committee on the

terminal of the Telegraph and to the Architect of the

Capital is very much appreciated.

I wish to take this opportunity to convey my

personal thanks for all that your Commission did to

help make the celebration of the Centennial of the

Telegraph at the United States Capital a success.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) William D. Clarke
Architect of the Capital

William D. Clarke

COPY

June 13, 1944.

Mr. Gilmore D. Clarke, Chairman,
The Commission of Fine Arts,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to your letter of May 19th, 1944, relative to application of the Chinese Lantern Restaurant for building permit for a Chinese Restaurant at 14 F Street, N.W., Lots 88 and 89, Square 628.

Since the receipt of your letter, the question as to whether under the Shipstead Act the plans were required to be submitted to your Commission, was referred to the Corporation Counsel for advise.

It is the opinion of the Corporation Counsel that in as much as the property for which the permit is desired does not abut any of the grounds or buildings included within the area defined in the Shipstead Act, nor does it abut upon any street bordering upon any of said grounds, the building permit cannot be denied because of the objections of the Commission of Fine Arts.

The Commissioners have approved the opinion of the Corporation Counsel, and have directed the Inspector of Buildings to consider the application in the light of the Corporation Counsel's opinion.

Very truly yours,

G. M. Thornett,
Secretary,

Board of Commissioners, D.C.

GMT/lb

Exhibit F.

June 13, 1944.

Mr. Gilmore D. Clarke, Chairman,
The Commission of Fine Arts,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to your letter of May 12th, 1944,
relative to application of the Chinese Eastern Restaurant for
building permit for a Chinese Restaurant at 14 E Street, N.W.,
Lots 88 and 89, Square 288.

Since the receipt of your letter, the question as to
whether under the District Act the plans were required to be
submitted to your Commission, was referred to the Corporation
Council for advice.

It is the opinion of the Corporation Council that
in as much as the property for which the permit is desired does
not abut any of the grounds or buildings included within the
area defined in the District Act, nor does it abut upon any
street bordering upon any of said grounds, the building permit
cannot be denied because of the objections of the Commission
of Fine Arts.

The Commissioners have approved the opinion of the
Corporation Council, and have directed the Inspector of Build-
ings to consider the application in the light of the Corporation
Council's opinion.

Very truly yours,

O. M. Thornton,
Secretary,
Board of Commissioners, D. C.

WHE/1p

Exhibit 1.

COPY

Recorder of Deeds Building, Washington, D.C.

May 25, 1944
FA

Mr Gilmore D. Clarke, Chairman
The Commission of Fine Arts
Interior Department Building
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Clarke:

Permit me to thank you for your letter of May 19 relative the proposed dedicatory plaque for the Recorder of Deeds Building in the process of preparation by Miss. Selma Burke of New York.

A photograph of the completed model will be forwarded to the Commission in accordance with your request for the further comment and advice of the Commission.

I am pleased to report that the portrayal of the President on this plaque is agreeable to him, same having been verified through his secretary. The President, most graciously, granted Miss. Burke an audience at which time she had an opportunity of observing him closely for the work in question.

Cordially,

Edward B. Rowan

Fine Arts Consultant

Exhibit G.

Memorandum of Records, 1944, Washington, D.C.

May 27, 1944
11

Mr. William L. Blaine, Chairman
The Commission of Fine Arts
Interior Department Building
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Blaine:

Permit me to thank you for your letter of May 15
relative to the proposed Relic of the Founder of Texas
Building in the process of preservation by the State of Texas.
I am pleased to report that the work of the Commission

A photograph of the completed Relic will be forwarded
to the Commission in accordance with your request for the further
comment and advice of the Commission.

I am pleased to report that the work of the Commission
on this Relic is agreeable to me, and having been verified through
his secretary. The President, Mr. Roosevelt, visited this Relic
an audience at which time he had an opportunity of observing the
closely for the work in connection.

Sincerely,
William L. Blaine

Very truly yours,
The Commission

Ten Rockefeller Plaza
New York 20, New York
June 9, 1944.

Honorable Robert Moses
Long Island States Park Commission
Babylon, Long Island

Dear Bob:

Thank you for sending me the photographs of the National Cemetery at Cypress Hills. I have sent them to Washington so that they may be available when representatives of the Army and the Navy take up the matter of new Military Cemeteries, of which I understand there are to be 69 in the United States.

I received a note and a couple of clippings from the Secretary of the Commission this morning and enclose them for your information.

I sincerely hope that we shall be able to influence the design of these Cemeteries so as to prevent a recurrence of such example as are indicated at Cypress Hills, and also at Arlington. Years ago when I was first on the Fine Arts Commission I tried to influence the Quarter-master-General to adopt a policy of uniformity of markers for Officers of the Army in much the same manner as obtains for the enlisted men and, and, of course, I received no encouragement whatever, with the result that officers markers are of all sizes and types and forms - a truly ugly ensemble in Arlington and, I expect, elsewhere. These Cemeteries, I am sure you will agree with me, should take on the appearance of great restful parks and, while markers are necessary, they should be located in a manner so that they are not offensive as at Cypress Hills, but, rather, are done so as to present an appearance of great dignity as obtains in the American Military Cemeteries of the last War in France and in England. The markers in these instances were uniform, but they were about three times as far apart as those at Cypress Hills, and they were considerably smaller. While they were in rows, they were not obtrusive because they were further apart.

All of the work of the European last-war Military Cemeteries was guided by the Commission of Fine Arts. Of course, I was not a member then but I remember that a great deal of work was done by the Commission in connection with influencing the design. General Pershing, who was Chairman of the last War Cemetery Commission never failed to seek the advice of the Commission with respect to the general scheme, all of which were approved by this body.

Cordially and sincerely,

Gilmore D. Clarke

Mr. Robert H. Ross
New York 20, New York
June 2, 1944.

Honorable Robert H. Ross
Long Island States Park Commission
Bayton, Long Island

Dear Bob:

Thank you for sending me the photographs of the National Cemetery at Cypress Hills. I have sent them to Washington so that they may be available when representatives of the Army and the Navy take up the matter of new Military Cemeteries, of which I understand there are to be 69 in the United States.

I received a note and a couple of clippings from the Secretary of the Commission this morning and enclose them for your information.

I sincerely hope that we shall be able to influence the design of these Cemeteries so as to prevent a recurrence of such examples as are indicated at Cypress Hills, and also at Arlington. Years ago when I was first on the Fine Arts Commission I tried to influence the Quarter-Master-General to adopt a policy of uniformity of markers for Officers of the Army in much the same manner as obtained for the enlisted men and, of course, I received no encouragement whatever, with the result that officers markers are of all sizes and types and forms - a truly ugly ensemble in Arlington and, I expect, elsewhere. These Cemeteries, I am sure you will agree with me, should take on the appearance of restful parks and, while markers are necessary, they should be located in a manner so that they are not offensive as at Cypress Hills, but rather, are done so as to present an appearance of great dignity as obtains in the American Military Cemeteries of the last war in France and in England. The markers in these instances were uniform, but they were about three times as far apart as those at Cypress Hills, and they were considerably smaller. While they were in rows, they were not offensive because they were further apart.

All of the work of the European last-war Military Cemeteries was finished by the Commission of Fine Arts. Of course, I was not a member then but I remember that a great deal of work was done by the Commission in connection with influencing the design. General Pershing, who was Chairman of the last War Cemetery Commission never failed to seek the advice of the Commission with respect to the general scheme, all of which were approved by this body.

Cordially and sincerely,

Gilmore D. Clarke

The Regents of the Smithsonian Institution, The Commission of Fine Arts, and Miss. Katharine M. Rhoades, or Mrs. Eugene E. Meyer, as provided in Paragraph 4 of the Codicil to the Will of the late Charles L. Freer, have examined the following objects:

- 1 Porcelain vase. Chinese, Yung Chong period (1723-1735).
- 1 Jade pi. Chinese, Chou Dynasty (4th-5th century B.C.).
- 1 Jade garment hook. Chinese, Chou dynasty (4th-5th century B.C.).
- 1 Brass Astrolabe. Persian, 17th century.
- 1 Pottery bowl, Persian, Rayy, 13th century.
- 1 Manuscript by Yakut Mustaqimi. Persian, 13th century.
- 1 Manuscript. Arabic. Sections of the Koran in Kufic script.
- 1 Manuscript. Persian, 13th century. History of Tabari.

which have been recommended for purchase for the Freer Gallery of Art by Mr. A. G. Wenley, Director, and they hereby approve the purchase.

For the Regents of the Smithsonian
Institution.

June 22nd, 1944.

For the Commission of Fine Arts.

The objects of the collection are to preserve
 the memory of the persons who have been
 connected with the institution, and to
 record the events of its history.

- 1. Originals. These are the original documents, and are preserved in the original form.
- 2. Copies. These are copies of the originals, and are preserved in the original form.
- 3. Facsimiles. These are facsimiles of the originals, and are preserved in the original form.
- 4. Photographs. These are photographs of the originals, and are preserved in the original form.
- 5. Drawings. These are drawings of the originals, and are preserved in the original form.
- 6. Prints. These are prints of the originals, and are preserved in the original form.
- 7. Manuscripts. These are manuscripts of the originals, and are preserved in the original form.
- 8. Books. These are books of the originals, and are preserved in the original form.
- 9. Periodicals. These are periodicals of the originals, and are preserved in the original form.
- 10. Maps. These are maps of the originals, and are preserved in the original form.

The collection is open to all persons who are interested in the history of the institution, and who wish to see the original documents, or to make copies of them.

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COPY

July 7, 1944

Dear General Grant:

At a meeting held on June 22, 1944, the Commission of Fine Arts were informed through a report by the Quartermaster General that the War Department proposes the establishment of a new military cemetery in or near the District of Columbia as part of a plan to provide additional National Cemeteries for this War.

The question of securing a sufficient acreage for such a cemetery in proximity to the National Capital is of course an important one and, in consideration of the subject, the possibility was discussed of enlarging the Arlington National Cemetery somewhat in accordance with a recent plan of the National Capital Park and Planning Commission. Such a scheme would involve the acquisition of all of the available land extending from the north side of Arlington National Cemetery to the vicinity of Francis Scott Key Bridge and from a line drawn north - south generally west of the top of the slope easterly to the Potomac River. It is fully realized that portions of this area are not available, since there are a railroad and some industrial properties on the flat lands which may be appropriately omitted.

For many years the Commission of Fine Arts have advocated the purchase, for public use, of all lands lying north of Arlington Cemetery up to the Lee Boulevard, in order forever to protect the views westward from the Mall and from other parts of the Central Composition of the National Capital.

At the time of our last joint meeting on June 22, the members of this Commission were glad to have the opportunity to inspect models for apartment houses, which private

Dear General Grant:

At a meeting held on June 11, 1904, the Commission of Fine Arts were informed through a report of the Secretary General that the War Department proposes the establishment of a new military cemetery in or near the District of Columbia as part of a plan to acquire additional National Cemeteries for this War.

The question of securing a suitable site for such a cemetery in proximity to the National Capital is of course an important one and, as a preliminary to the possibility of securing a suitable site, the National Cemetery Survey is conducting a survey of the National Capital Park and Memorial Commission. This survey would involve the acquisition of all of the land extending from the north side of Arlington Heights Cemetery to the vicinity of the Potomac River. It is fully realized that a line drawn north-south through the center of the ridge easterly to the Potomac River is not available, since land that portions of this area are not available, since there are a railroad and some industrial properties on the flat lands which may be appropriately situated.

For many years the Commission of Fine Arts has advocated the purchase, for public use, of all land lying north of Arlington Cemetery up to the Potomac River, in order forever to protect the view extending from the National Capital to the Potomac River.

At the time of our last joint meeting on June 22, the members of this Commission were informed that the War Department had proposed to acquire twenty to twenty-five acres of land in the vicinity of the National Cemetery for the purpose of establishing a new military cemetery.

owners have planned to erect on lands immediately north of Arlington, which would be situated on the Mall axis projected across the Potomac to the Virginia Hills. The Commission of Fine Arts view with alarm any private use of the lands on the Virginia side of the Potomac opposite the Central Composition of the National Capital. That these lands should be forever protected to provide an appropriate background of forest for the great central development of Washington, there is no question. There seems to be no doubt in the minds of any of us that these lands should be owned by the Federal Government and that they should be purchased immediately in order to prevent their exploitation by private interests at the end of the War.

It is now clearly evident that it is not enough to purchase the lands immediately adjacent to and north of the Arlington National Cemetery as far as the Lee Boulevard. Studies should be made, as suggested in the first part of this letter, to determine the location of all lands necessary to prevent forever the intrusion of private building development in Virginia, between Arlington Cemetery and Key Bridge, which would be seen from any point in the Central Composition of the National Capital. The view west down Constitution Avenue is now seriously endangered by possible private construction on the Virginia side of the Potomac, and Roosevelt Island provides an insufficient screen, particularly in winter, against ugly private development in the Virginia Hills.

The Commission of Fine Arts hereby respectfully suggest that the National Capital Park and Planning Commission prepare a study to determine what lands should be acquired by the Federal Government in order to protect the westerly terminus of the great monumental center of the Capital. It seems to the members of this body that the lands heretofore referred to, or portions of them, might be used appropriately for purposes of a new military cemetery, or for the enlargement of the Arlington National Cemetery.

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In any event, the lands should and must be acquired, and the members of this Commission stand ready to assist the Planning Commission in any way, in order to achieve the ~~desired~~ results.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,

Gilmore D. Clarke
Chairman

Exhibit J.

Major General W. S. Grant III - 2- July 8, 1944

In any event, the lands should and must be acquired, and the members of this Commission stand ready to assist the planning Commission in any way, in order to achieve the desired results.

For the Commission of Nine Arts:

Sincerely yours,

Gilmore D. Clarke
Chairman

Encl. 1.